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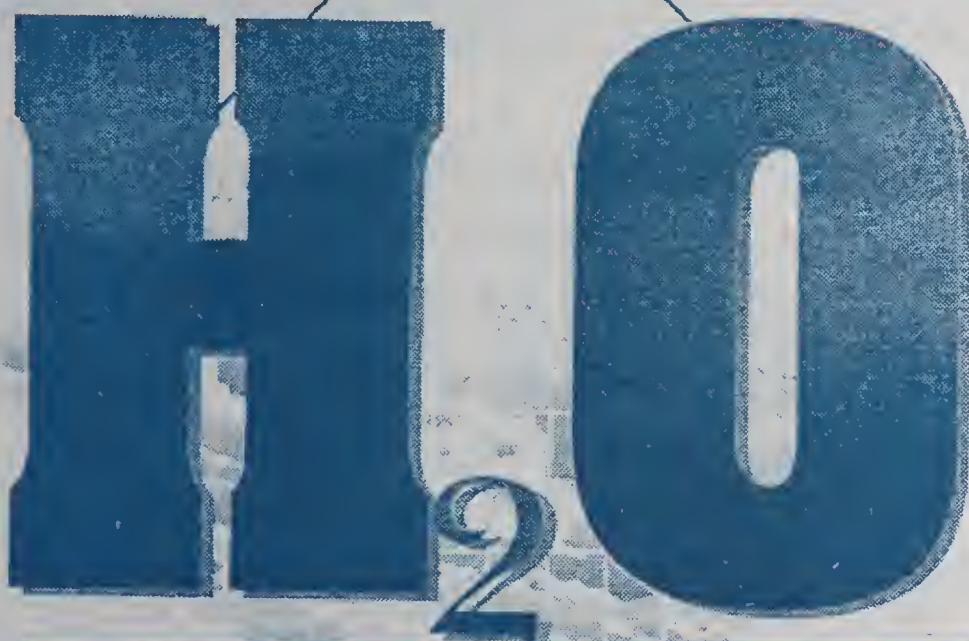
August 1997

IEPA/LABS/97-017

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Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
Division of Laboratories

The Division of Laboratories  
experienced staff provides:

- High quality laboratory analyses
- Low prices
- “One-stop-shopping”
- Free resamples

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# THE ILLINOIS EPA DIVISION OF LABORATORIES

The Illinois EPA laboratories have very experienced personnel who provide top quality results.

- Illinois EPA laboratories have routinely received top grades on USEPA performance evaluation samples for the last 25 years.
- Illinois EPA's laboratory management staff averages 19 years of experience in environmental analysis.
- **The Illinois EPA was one of the first laboratories in the nation to reach the extremely low detection levels required by USEPA for analyzing synthetic organic chemicals (SOC) samples.**
- Illinois EPA laboratories pioneered analytical techniques.

The Illinois EPA Laboratories provide high quality results at prices that are lower than most private laboratories.

- Because 86% of the public water supplies participate in the fee program Illinois EPA can use economies-of-scale to reduce your cost per sample.
- Illinois EPA uses new technologies and a high degree of automation to:
  - Maximize sample throughput;
  - Reduce turn-around times;



- Provide accurate, high quality sample results.

The Community Water Supply Testing Program provides “one-stop shopping” for your monitoring needs.

In addition to analytical services the Illinois EPA provides:

- The correct number of sample bottles in a timely fashion;
- Automatic reporting of analytical results consistent with USEPA requirements;
- Follow-up sampling as required;
- Samples analyzed with quality control steps taken to assure accuracy;
- Technical assistance with questions regarding sampling and monitoring;
- **Bottles for resamples at no additional fee;**
- An expanded list of laboratories certified to perform coliform analysis.

USEPA is scheduled to expand sampling requirements in November 1998 to include ICR analytes.

• All supplies in Illinois will be required to analyze for trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids.

The Illinois EPA has one of only two laboratories in the state certified to analyze Information Collection Rule (ICR) samples for chemical parameters.

- Currently, no commercial laboratory in Illinois is certified to conduct ICR analyses for chemical parameters.
- USEPA instituted ICR to study the amount of disinfectants and disinfection by-products (D/DBPs) in drinking water while still ensuring that the drinking water does not contain any disease-causing pathogens.
- Data from the information collection rule will be used by USEPA to set future maximum contamination levels.
- The ICR covers an 18-month sampling period for water utilities serving more than 100,000 people. Samples are collected and analyzed for specific microbes, water quality characteristics, and D/DBPs.
- Current public water supplies using Illinois EPA laboratories for ICR monitoring are

Aurora	Rend Lake
Chicago	Rockford
Evanston	Springfield
Central Lake JAWA	

## The Illinois EPA Laboratories provide the following analyses:

- Coliform analyses;
- 47 Synthetic Organic Chemicals (SOCs);
- 37 Regulated volatile organic compounds (VOCs);
- 19 Inorganic Chemicals (IOCs);
- 6 Water Quality Parameters;
- Fluoride;
- 35 ICR compounds and parameters;
- 12 Disinfectant/Disinfection By-product compounds and parameters.

## The Illinois EPA has significantly reduced the amount of sampling required by including analysis for current and future regulated compounds with each sample.

- The Illinois EPA routinely monitors for many unregulated compounds.
- Because the Illinois EPA routinely monitors many unregulated compounds, additional sampling is **not** required when those compounds become regulated.

## The Illinois EPA is updating its information management systems.

- Both the Division of Laboratories and Bureau of Water will have new computer systems on-line by July 1, 1998.
- Together these new computer systems:
  - Will improve sample tracking;
  - Will allow the creation of user-friendly reports;
  - Will use bar coding to further improve laboratory turnaround time;
  - May be able to provide results instantaneously via the Internet.

## The Illinois EPA is working hard to achieve further improvements.

- Reducing resamples.
- Working with public water supplies to reduce the summer-time temperature of incoming samples.
- Reducing turnaround times.
- Striving to be one of the first laboratories certified by the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP.)
  - NELAP certification will affect the future of ALL environmental laboratories.
  - ALL environmental laboratories could be required to be NELAP certified to analyze drinking water samples in the future.